

Message Text

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ACTION PM-05

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NSAE-00 /052 W
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P 191538Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8314
INFO SECDEF/DSAA/ISA PRIORITY
EUCOM ECJ4/7 VAIHINGEN GE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 TUNIS 6655

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS TS
SUBJECT: AUTHORIZED SECURITY ASSISTANCE POSITIONS

REF: STATE 219922, DTG 141335Z SEP 77.

1. REF TEL PROVIDED PROPOSED AUTHORIZED MANNING LEVEL FOR USLOT AND REQUESTED JUSTIFICATION. THIS MESSAGE PROVIDES JUSTIFICATION FOR 6 MILITARY, 1 U.S. CIVILIAN, AND 3 LOCAL CIVILIANS.

2. CONSIDERING THE MAGNITUDE OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS ONGOING AND PROJECTED IN TUNISIA, I FEEL THAT A MINIMUM OF 6 MILITARY PERSONNEL IS REQUIRED. WITH A FIVE-YEAR MODERNIZATION PROGRAM ENCOMPASSING A TOTAL OF FROM \$125 M TO \$135 M IN FMS CREDITS, THE TUNISIANS WILL NEED EVERY ASSISTANCE OUR MILITARY LIAISON OFFICE WILL BE ABLE TO PROVIDE. THE MAJOR THRUST OF THE TUNISIAN MODERNIZATION PROGRAM WILL BE IN THEIR GROUND FORCES: CHAPARRAL AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM, TOW ANTI-TANK MISSILES, M48A5 TANKS AND 155 MM SELF-PROPELLED ARTILLERY. THE TUNISIAN NAVY WILL REQUIRE ADDITIONAL 105' AND 165' PATROL CRAFT; THE TUNISIAN AIR FORCE IS CONSIDERING THE F-5 FIGHTER AS A REPLACEMENT AIRCRAFT FOR
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THEIR OUTDATED F-86S.

3. AS WE HAVE ALREADY SEEN SINCE THE CHAPARRAL PURCHASE LAST YEAR, THE TUNISIANS REQUIRE A GREAT DEAL OF TECHNICAL GUIDANCE AND ADVICE. AS OTHER FMS PURCHASES ARE SIGNED AND COMMITMENTS MADE FOR NEW WEAPONS SYSTEMS, THE REQUIREMENT FOR ADVICE AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE BY OUR MILITARY LIAISON

OFFICE WILL INCREASE. IN ADDITION TO THE TECHNICAL ADVICE, OUR MILITARY IS EXPECTED TO PROVIDE A MYRIAD OF OTHER SERVICES, RANGING FROM ORGANIZATION AND TRAINING REQUIREMENTS, TO CADRE SELECTION AND LANGUAGE QUALIFICATIONS, RECEPTION AND STORAGE OF EQUIPMENT AND SPARES, RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BASE AND DEPOT ORGANIZATION AND STOCKAGE LEVELS, AND ADVICE ON FINAL TECHNICAL AND TACTICAL TRAINING TO ORDER TO PRODUCE COMBAT-READY UNITS.

4. FURTHERMORE, THE IMETP PROGRAM HAS MORE THAN DOUBLED IN VALUE, DOLLAR-WISE, FROM FY 76 TO FY 77 WITH A CORRESPONDING INCREASE IN THE TOTAL NUMBER OF TUNISIAN MILITARY STUDENTS UNDERGOING TRAINING IN THE UNITED STATES AND IN EUROMED TO MEET TUNISIAN TRAINING REQUIREMENTS. WE COULD USE MORE THAN THE \$1 MILLION LEVEL GRANTED TUNISIAN FOR MILITARY TRAINING THIS YEAR. ADDITIONALLY, WE HOPE FOR A RECIPROCAL TRAINING PROGRAM THIS YEAR WHEREBY SMALL GROUPS OF US MILITARY PERSONNEL WILL BE ABLE TO UNDERGO LIMITED DESERT AND OTHER TRAINING HERE IN TUNISIA. THE MANAGEMENT OF THIS INCREASED TRAINING PROGRAM AND ITS ANCILLARY REQUIREMENTS IS CONSIDERED A MOST ESSENTIAL PART OF OUR CONTINUED MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO TUNISIA.

5. TUNISIA FITS THE TEMPLATE FOR A COUNTRY WHICH NEEDS OUR CONTINUED MILITARY SUPPORT. HER GOVERNMENT IS FRIENDLY TO THE UNITED STATES AND SHE SUPPORTS OUR
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NATIONAL INTERESTS. SHE HAS A STABLE INTERNAL GOVERNMENT AND HAS DEVELOPED HER ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL NEEDS BEFORE TACKLING HER MILITARY REQUIREMENTS. HER ARMED FORCES ARE APOLITICAL. HER MILITARY IS WELL TRAINED, INDUSTRIOUS AND RELIABLE BUT IN DIRE NEED OF EQUIPMENT MODERNIZATION. TUNISIA IS COMMITTED FINANCIALLY TO A MODEST ARMS IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AND SHE NEEDS THE CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE UNITED STATES.

6. IN VIEW OF THE CONTINUED REQUIREMENT FOR OUR MILITARY ASSISTANCE AS OUTLINED BRIEFLY ABOVE, I FEEL THAT OUR MILITARY LIAISON OFFICE SHOULD BE KEPT AT NO FEWER THAN 6 MILITARY PERSONNEL. OF OUR CURRENT MILITARY AUTHORIZATION OF 9 PERSONNEL, ONLY 8 HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED SINCE 1976. WE PLAN TO DROP ONE NAVY NCO AND ONE ADMINISTRATIVE NCO TO BRING OUR OFFICE DOWN TO THE AUTHORIZED MILITARY STRENGTH OF SIX.

7. SPECIFIC JUSTIFICATION FOR EACH POSITION REQUIRED TO ADMINISTER SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IN TUNISIA FOLLOWS:

A. CHIEF OF USLOT (US ARMY COLONEL), IS REQUIRED FOR OVERALL COORDINATION OF USLOT ACTIVITIES IN THE SUPPORT OF U.S. MILITARY SECURITY ASSISTANCE MATTERS REQUIRED TO FOSTER TUNISIAN MILITARY COMPETENCE AND TO FURTHER US NATIONAL POLICIES AND INTEREST. THE CHIEF OF USLOT IS A MEMBER OF THE COUNTRY TEAM AND IS UNDER THE GENERAL SUPERVISION OF THE CHIEF OF THE U.S. DIPLOMATIC MISSION TO TUNISIA. CHIEF OF USLOT IS THE PRIMARY ADVISOR TO THE CHIEF OF THE U.S. DIPLOMATIC MISSION IN SECURITY ASSISTANCE MATTERS OF TUNISIA. CHIEF OF USLOT HAS DIRECT ACCESS TO THE TUNISIAN MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND THE NATIONAL MILITARY AUTHORITIES OF TUNISIA CONCERNING SECURITY ASSISTANCE MATTERS AND ON POLICY MATTERS AS APPROVED BY THE CHIEF OF U.S. DIPLOMATIC

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MISSION. HE MUST BE ABLE TO VISIT TUNISIAN MILITARY UNITS AND MUST ASSESS THESE UNITS' CAPABILITIES IN ABSORBING NEW EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 TUNIS 6655

B. MATERIAL PROGRAMS OFFICER (USAF LTCOL), IS REQUIRED TO ADMINISTER THE TOTAL TUNISIAN AIR FORCE SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM INCLUSIVE OF BOTH FOREIGN MILITARY SALES AND AIR FORCE IMET PROGRAM. HIS EXPERTISE CONCERNING USAF AIR FORCE MATTERS IS NECESSARY IN DEALING WITH

TUNISIAN AIR FORCE (TAF) NEEDS. THE EXISTING TAF IS BASICALLY EQUIPPED WITH ITEMS RECEIVED UNDER US GRANT-AID. THERE REMAIN OUTSTANDING REQUISITIONS UNDER GRANT-AID WHICH WILL CONTINUE TO BE DELIVERED THROUGH 1980. PROPER MONITORING OF END-ITEM UTILIZATION OF US OBTAINED EQUIPMENT IS ESSENTIAL. CURRENT USAF IMET FOR TUNISIA IS APPROXIMATELY \$300 (THOUSAND) PER YEAR. AN OFFICER KNOWLEDGABLE OF USAF SCHOOLS AND TRAINING REQUIREMENTS IS ESSENTIAL TO PROGRAM AND ADMINISTER THE TAF IMET. ADDITIONALLY, THE TAF IS IN PROCESS OF UPDATING ITS ANTIQUATED EQUIPMENT. STATED INTENTIONS OF TN SECDEF RECENTLY INDICATE A POSSIBLE PURCHASE OF A NEW FIRST-LINE FIGHTER WITH MOST PROBABLY PREFERENCE BEING THE F-5E. WITH AN UPDATING OF ALL RESOURCES, A USAF REPRESENTATIVE IS ESSENTIAL TO THE USG INTERESTS.

C. MATERIAL PROGRAM OFFICER (USN LTCDR), IS NECESSARY FOR PROGRAMMING AND ADMINISTERING AN EXPANDING CONFIDENTIAL

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TN NAVY MODERNIZATION PROGRAM. THIS OFFICER IS A VITAL LINK IN MAINTAINING USG INTERESTS WITH RESPECT TO READY ACCESS BY THE 6TH FLEET TO TUNISIAN PORTS AND COMBINED US/TUNISIAN TRAINING EXERCISES. THE GOT VIEWS THE CO-OPERATIVE SUPPORT OF THE USN AS SIGNIFICANT TO THEIR RELATIONS WITH USG AND IN TURN SEES THE USN REPRESENTATIVE FROM USLOT AS A SIGN OF CONTINUED SUPPORT IN RETURN FOR THEIR READILY ACCESSABLE PORTS.

THE TUNISIAN NAVY HAS BECOME ACTIVE IN FMS PURCHASES IN SUPPORT OF THEIR US-OBTAINED DESTROYER PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA. INDICATIONS OF THE FUTURE ARE THAT AT LEAST EIGHT ADDITIONAL BOATS IN THE 105 AND 165 FEET PATROL CRAFT CLASS WILL BE PURCHASED. INCREASED IMET (\$200 THOUSAND FOR FY 78) FOR THE TN NAVY BOTH IN PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL SCHOOLS PRESENTS A NEED FOR A US NAVY REPRESENTATIVE FOR PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION.

D. MATERIAL PROGRAMS OFFICER (U.S. ARMY MAJOR), IS PARTICULARLY ESSENTIAL DURING THE PERIOD OF THE TUNISIAN ARMY MODERNIZATION PROGRAM. WITH THE PURCHASE OF THE CHAPARRAL MISSILE SYSTEM, AND THE POSSIBILITY OF FUTURE PURCHASES OF TOW ANTI-TANK MISSILES SYSTEMS, NEW M48A5 TANKS AND 155 MM SP ARTILLERY, THE USG INTERESTS ARE BEST SERVED BY MAINTAINING A HIGHLY QUALIFIED U.S. ARMY OFFICER FOR THE PROGRAMMING AND MANAGEMENT OF US ARMY SECURITY ASSISTANCE. THIS OFFICER MUST MAINTAIN LIAISON WITH THE TN MOD WITH REGARDS TO TECHNICAL MATTERS DEALING WITH CURRENT AND ON-GOING ARMS SALES. HIS ADMINISTERING AND PROGRAMMING OF THE US ARMY IMET, WHICH THIS YEAR IS OVER

\$500 THOUSAND IS ESSENTIAL.

3. SUPPLY OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR (U.S. ARMY SFC), IS
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NECESSARY TO ADVISE ALL THREE SERVICES OF TN MILITARY IN ALL PHASES OF US SUPPLY PROCEDURES, INCLUDING REQUISITIONING, TURN-IN PROCEDURES, PROPERTY DISPOSAL, WAREHOUSING, FUNDS MANAGEMENT, RECEIPT AND COORDINATION OF CARGO SHIPMENTS AND MAINTENANCE OF SUPPLY RECORDS. HE IS ESSENTIAL WITH RESPECT TO ONGOING SUPPLY SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS AND CONCURRENT SPARE PARTS PROGRAMS. THE USLOT SUPPLY REPRESENTATIVE COORDINATES DAILY WITH TN MOD REPRESENTATIVES, AS WELL AS WITH THE THREE SERVICES IN ASSISTING IN MAINTAINING RECORDS OF ALL SUPPLY TRANSACTIONS BETWEEN MOD AND USG AND IN FOLLOW-UP PROCEDURES OF ALL TRANSACTION PROBLEMS. HE ADDITIONALLY IS NECESSARY TO COORDINATE ALL MATTERS OF EXISTING OUTSTANDING REQUISITIONS AND DELIVERY OF MAP MATERIAL WHICH WILL CONTINUE TO FLOW THROUGH 1980.

F. ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, (U.S. ARMY CAPTAIN), IS NECESSARY FOR PROPER HANDLING OF ALL ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES INCLUDING CLASSIFIED DOCUMENT CONTROL, RECORDS AND DOD PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION. HE MUST ADMINISTER ALL BUDGET AND FISCAL MATTERS FOR USLOT AS WELL AS PROCUREMENT, SECURITY MAINTENANCE, ORGANIZATIONAL PROPERTY, HOUSING, COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE, TRANSPORTATION AND SHARED SUPPORT AGREEMENTS AND INTERSERVICE SUPPORT AGREEMENTS. HE FILLS A VITAL ROLE IN HANDLING THE ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGEMENT OF THE IMET PROGRAM BY PUBLISHING ITOS, BRIEFING STUDENTS AND ADMINISTERING ENGLISH COMPREHENSION LEVEL TESTS. THIS LATTER FUNCTION IS ESPECIALLY NECESSARY DUE TO THE RECENT DEPARTURE WITHOUT REPLACEMENT OF DLIEL MANAGER PREVIOUSLY REQUESTED (USLOT MSG, DTG 251520Z APR 77 AND TUNIS 2849), WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECONSIDERATION OF LOCAL HIRE BEING INCREASED FROM 2 TO 3.
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Message Attributes

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